

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158346

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: A-4 PROGRAM - CRITICAL REPORT

1. DEPT HAS BEEN PROVIDED COPY OF A SECTION OF A REPORT ON PROGRESS OF A-4 PROGRAM IN KUWAIT. REPORT CONTAINS COMMENTS VERY CRITICAL OF KUWAITI MOD AND KAF MADE BY NAVY OFFICER WHO WAS PART OF TEAM WHICH VISITED KUWAIT IN MAY. THROUGH OBVIOUS ERROR IN PROCEDURES, COPY OF THIS REPORT WAS GIVEN TO COL. KARIM HASSAN, OF MOD, DURING BRIEFING AT DOD. ACCORDING TO DOD OFFICER PRESENT, COL. HASSAN WAS EXTREMELY ANGRY AFTER READING CRITICAL REMARKS AND LEFT THE MEETING FOLLOWED BY OTHER KUWAITI OFFICERS INCLUDING ONE MEMBER OF KUWAIT EMBASSY'S MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE.

2. BACKGROUND OF REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS. NAVY TEAM VISITED KUWAIT IN MAY TO EVALUATE PROGRESS OF A-4 PROGRAM. ONE
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PAGE 02 STATE 158346

NAVY OFFICER WAS ASSIGNED TO LOOK AT CETS (CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING TECHNICAL PROGRAM). FROM HIS OWN OBSERVATION AND FROM DISCUSSION WITH CETS PERSONNEL (PRESUMABLY DOUGLAS CONTRACTORS) HE MADE NUMEROUS CRITICAL REMARKS WHICH WERE INCORPORATED AS PART OF FORMAL DOCUMENT ON A-4 PROGRAM (DOCUMENT IS TITLED 9TH INTEGRATED LOGISTICAL SUPPORT MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING). DURING JUNE 20 MEETING

AT DOD WITH GOK OFFICERS, CIVILIAN MEMBER OF DOD OFFICE IN

CHARGE OF A-4 PROGRAM GAVE COPY OF DOCUMENT TO COL. HASSAN CAUSING THE KUWAITI WALKOUT. OBVIOUSLY, REPORT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE CONVEYED TO GOK AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT NAVY OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS SHOULD EVER HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN REPORT.

3. FOLLOWING ARE TYPICAL PHRASES FROM REPORT: QTE KAF DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FULLY ORGANIZED OR COHESIVE IN ITS MAINTENANCE CONTROL ... AND DEDICATION TO ITS MISSION; SAFETY IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED OR IGNORED; THE PLANE CAPTAIN'S ATTITUDE WAS 'SO WHAT'; CETS REPS FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO STATUS OF SECOND CLASS CITIZENS END QTE. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT COL. HASSAN WAS FURTHER UPSET SINCE HE HAD BEEN RECENTLY TOLD THAT PROGRAM WAS GOING WELL.

4. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT COL. HASSAN KEPT COPY OF REPORT WHEN HE LEFT DOD. HE AND KUWAITI GROUP RETURNED TO DOD FOLLOWING DAY TO CONTINUE A-4 MEETINGS. FURTHER UNDERSTAND SEVERAL DOD OFFICIALS HAVE MADE APOLOGIES TO COL. HASSAN AND REAR ADMIRAL ALTWEIG INTENDS TO MEET WITH HIM THURSDAY, JUNE 22 TO GO OVER INCIDENT AND EXPRESS HIS REGRETS. WHILE IT APPEARS, AT THIS TIME, THAT COL. HASSAN IS SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED, THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL INFORM HIS SUPERIORS IN MOD OF THIS REPORT.
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PAGE 03 STATE 158346

5. SHOULD GOK QUESTION EMBASSY ABOUT ABOVE INCIDENT, YOU SHOULD REPLY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

-- THESE REMARKS WERE NEITHER AUTHORIZED NOR APPROVED BY AUTHORITATIVE USG OFFICIALS.

-- THEY ARE THE REMARKS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL BASED ON FIVE DAYS' IN KUWAIT WITH ONLY A NARROW VIEW OF THE PROGRAM.

-- WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY EMBARRASSMENT OR OFFENSE TO THE GOK AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

6. DEPT POUCHING COPY OF REPORT TO EMBASSY. COL. MC-CARTHY, NEW CHUSLOK, ATTENDED JUNE 20 MEETING AND HAS FULL DETAILS. VANCE

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